

Please cancel claims 12-24 without prejudice or disclaimer of its subject matter, and amend claims 1-11 as shown below.

A clean version of the entire set of pending claims follows per 37 CFR § 1.121(c)(3).

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1. (Amended) A method for producing a lacquer composition, the method comprising the step of mixing together a first organosilane compound, a metal alkoxide and silica particles under basic conditions to form a reaction mixture.
2. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the metal alkoxide is a zirconium alkoxide, an aluminum alkoxide, a titanium alkoxide or a mixture thereof.
3. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the metal alkoxide is a metal diketonate.
4. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein the first organosilane compound is an epoxysilane.
5. (Amended) A method according to claim 4, wherein the epoxysilane is 3-glycidyloxypropyltrimethoxysilane.

6. (Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein at least a second organosilane compound is added to the reaction mixture.

7. (Amended) A method according to claim 6, wherein the second organosilane compound comprises a tetra-alkoxysilane.

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1, comprising the further steps of coating a substrate with the reaction mixture, and curing the reaction mixture to form a lacquer coating on the substrate.

9. (Amended) A Product provided with a lacquer coating, wherein the lacquer coating is obtained by the method as claimed in claim 8.

10. (Amended) A starting material composition for obtaining a lacquer composition, the starting material composition comprising an organosilane compound, silica particles, a base, and a metal alkoxide.

11. (Amended) A lacquer composition comprising the reaction product of the starting material composition of claim 10.